



Orientation Meeting Four

Gender Topics

Background

The topics below are not all specific to gender, but should be discussed in groups separated by gender to prevent embarrassment and ensure every delegate feels free to ask questions and share frankly. Please draw on your own experience and insight to make the most of this discussion. We want to promote mature and responsible behavior in our Student Ambassadors.

Friendship

By all means, delegate should form friendships within the delegation! This will be one of the many rewarding experiences. However, romantic relationships should not be encouraged during the program. Remind delegates of the following:

- Delegate's attention should be on the program and the Student Ambassador experience, not on a romantic interest.
- Finding a boyfriend/girlfriend is NOT a Student Ambassador objective.
- Public displays of affection are not acceptable and can result in the couple being separated.
- Boys and girls will be expected to work together in groups during the program.
- A boy should never be in a girl's room, and a girl should never be in a boy's room.

Courtesy

Remind delegates of their Student Ambassador responsibility to always act with courtesy to others:

- Hold doors.
- Offer assistance.
- Help check the motor coach.
- Keep lobbies, motor coaches, and dining rooms clean.
- Use best manners at all times.

Respect

Remind delegates that another of their responsibilities is respect:

- Listen attentively to guides and leaders.
- Ask permission before acting. Getting permission is easier than getting forgiveness.

Zero Tolerance

- Bullying or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. A student engaged in bullying or harassment can expect to be paired with a leader.
- Harassment and bullying include name-calling and unwanted teasing.
- All language will be "clean." Use of profanity will not be tolerated.
- Any case of these behaviors should be immediately reported to a leader.

Hygiene

Traveling and wearing the same clothes can lead to body odor very quickly. Make sure students:

- Shower with soap, and use deodorant daily.
- Wash clothes whenever they have the chance. Spray-on fresheners do not cover odors accumulated over two or three weeks of traveling.
- Pack plenty of their favorite hygiene products; they may not be available internationally.

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Maturity

While Ambassador Programs should be fun, some “play” is considered inappropriate:

- Rough-play such as wrestling, fighting, etc. is not acceptable.
- Playing in elevators or stairwells is forbidden.
- There will be no running in hotels, buildings, etc.

For Delegations Traveling to Europe

Another test of maturity in Europe is regarding the less conservative standard around the nude body:

- **Art:** Much of the art they will see in Europe includes images of nude bodies. Maturity means appreciating the piece for the art that it is, without giggling, pointing, or otherwise responding immaturely.
- **Souvenirs:** Many European shops sell souvenirs that portray nude images or feature private parts. Again, students should demonstrate maturity when they see these.
- **Media:** Television, billboards, and other advertising may include nudity. Prepare students for this. Instruct them to respond maturely.
- **Beaches:** Chances are you will encounter nudity on beaches in Europe. Instruct students not to stare, point, giggle, etc. Explain that mature Student Ambassadors will look in a different direction without showing a reaction.

Boys' discussion—For Delegations Traveling to China

When visiting China, you'll notice a prevalence of massage salons. While many of them are legitimate businesses, sometimes an establishment of “ill repute” will advertise under the guise of massage. Even though prostitution is technically illegal in China, many forms do exist today.

Male delegates will need to be cautious, because it's possible they'll be encouraged to have a massage, perhaps even in the hotel where you're staying. Students should never go to massage salons alone, including hotel massage salons. Instruct students that if they are solicited for more than a massage they should respond with a firm “no,” and repeat this answer many times to get the point across. Let students know this is not a time to worry about being polite or not offending.

Girls' Discussion

Girls can expect changes in their menstrual cycle while traveling. Travel causes periods to start early, to start late, to flow heavy, or to flow intermittently. Make sure your girls are aware of this and prepared for it. Tell them to:

- ALWAYS carry tampons, pads, or liner with them.
- If they are prone to cramping, always carry a medication that will ease their discomfort.
- Feel comfortable talking to a leader when necessary.

Grade School Girls

- It's likely that if you are leading a grade school delegation, at least one of the girls will have her first period. Talk with your girls frankly about this and encourage them to talk to their parents about ensuring they are prepared.